

Local Restore Council
July 13, 2015
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, Commissioner Don Salter, Mike Sandler, Shon Owens, Buzz Eddy, Brian Watkins, Cal Bodenstein, Dave Robau, Carole Tebay. Also present was Jeff Helms (Restore Consultant), Hunter Walker (County Administrator), Roger Blaylock (County Engineer), Roy Andrews (County Attorney). Lynchard called the meeting order at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the June 8, 2015 meeting minutes.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium

Jeff Helms gave a power point presentation to the council (Attachment in file). He said an agreement was reached in regards to the BP settlement. Helms said the details of the agreement are confidential at this time, but will be put into a consent decree and open for public review and comment. He said all of the counties, parishes, school boards, etc. have been meeting in closed door sessions, because of confidentiality, to vote on what has been offered to those respective government bodies. Andrews said Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners held its closed and open BP settlement meeting and voted to accept the settlement terms. Helms further discussed the breakdown and payment schedule of the \$18.732 billion BP settlement.

Lynchard asked Helms if he knows when the settlement will be approved by the court. Helms said he believes that a consent decree has already been drafted. Andrews said the discussion in regards to the settlement that Santa Rosa County approved today, was that the funds could be available before the end of year, but the earliest estimates are 45-60 days.

Robau asked if it is an option for Santa Rosa County to be able to float a bond, to get another bigger project done, knowing that there is a dedicated source of funding over a period of many years. Andrews said with a dedicated revenue stream that an underwriter could reasonably anticipate being forthcoming, a bonding would be possible. Lynchard said that is one way the council could fund some of the larger ticket items.

Sandler said there are water quality restoration grants available and these could be used as matching funds or as an adjunct. He said some areas have utility fees for stormwater. Helms said the stormwater utility fee is setup by the local jurisdictions. Sandler said this is one possible way for some additional funds that can be leveraged.

Lynchard said it is approximately \$28.5 million that this Local Restore Council, and future iterations of this Local Restore Council, will be working on over the next fifteen years. He discussed the tentative list of projects that the Local Restore Council approved at the last meeting. Lynchard asked Helms about a change made to project list regarding the Quinn Street Marina project. After further discussion, Lynchard said the Quinn Street Marina grant request should revert back to the original grant request.

Lynchard said there is approximately \$4.2 million available that the Local Restore Council will be able to plan for in the first round of Restore funding. He said approximately \$3.4 million is allocated, so there are some funds leftover in reserves. Lynchard said there is no requirement that the council program all of those funds with the first round of the multi-year implementation plan.

Robau asked Lynchard if the National Resource Damages Act (NRDA) funding is specifically for the disproportionately affected counties or is it statewide. Lynchard said NRDA funding will be spent statewide but hopefully concentrated on the area that received the damage.

There was continued discussion regarding the multi-year implementation plan timeline and the 3% project administration fee. Helms said applicants were asked not to include the administration charge in the application because the county is going to “tack that on top” of the multi-year implementation plan when the plan is submitted to Department of Treasury. Sheila Fitzgerald (Grants Coordinator) said staff will be getting into more detail with the applicants and will know which applicants are requesting the administration fee. Lynchard said the project list

will be “fleshed out” between county staff and the individual applicants. He said a meeting between the project applicant and staff will determine if a match is available. He said if a match is not available that project would fall off the list and not get put into the county’s multi-year implementation plan. Lynchard said he is assuming that the 3% allocation will be a line item on the multi-year implementation plan.

Fitzgerald asked for clarification regarding the alternate economic development project on the list. She said this project is not reflected in the totals but was identified as an alternate project at the last meeting. Lynchard said it was his understanding that the council was going to move forward with this project. Helms said R. Williamson sent an email in support of this project being added for post-secondary career and technical education program.

Eddy moved approval of the project list as amended with the addition of the post-secondary career and technical education program design phase. Tebay seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lynchard said this is not the approval of the multi-year implementation plan. He said this is approval of the list for staff to start contacting and further developing these projects so staff can develop the multi-year implementation plan.

Next meeting

Lynchard said the Local Restore Council will cancel its August meeting and will meet again in September.

Public Forum

Jessica Koelsch (National Wildlife Federation) said she feels the council came up with a great list of projects. She said she will share information with Fitzgerald regarding other counties multi-year implementation plans. Koelsch said some of the other counties hit some stumbling blocks with Department of Treasury. She said these other counties may be able to help navigate Santa Rosa County around some of the obstacles they faced.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting adjourned.

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman